

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

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COME-00 /186 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:JLLOUGHRAN:IW

APPROVED BY AF/W:JLLOUGHRAN

AF:DBEASUM (DRAFT)

----- 122054

R 232313Z SEQ 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UN, NG

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FONMIN MOUMOUNI

1. EASUM/LOUGHRAN MET IN NYC WITH NIGERIEN DEL TO UN
TO REVIEW BILATERAL AND US ISSUES. FOLLOWING SUBJECTS
DISCUSSED:

2. THE COUP - MOUMOUNI RECOUNTED THAT ARMY HAD WELL OVER
YEAR AGO URGED DIORI UTILIZE MILITARY TO CARRY OUT DIS-
CIPLINED AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF EMERGENCY FOOD
GRAINS. AS TIME WENT ON IT BECAME INCREASINGLY EVIDENT TO
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MILOFFS THAT CONTINUED AND INCREASED "GASPILLAGE" OF DIORI GOVT WAS WREAKING UNNECESSARY MISERY ON NIGERIENS AND NOMADS. THIS WAS ONE OF MAJOR REASONS WHICH LED ARMY TO SEIZE POWER.

3. SAHEL - FONMIN, PRAISING ASSISTANCE EFFORTS OF US MISSION AND AMBASSADOR HECK, STATED THAT PEOPLE NOW RECEIVING RELIEF ON MORE TIMELY AND RATIONAL BASIS. NOTING THAT RAINS THIS YEAR ARE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER 1972/73 HE NONETHELESS CAUTIONED AGAINST UNDUE OPTIMISM, POINTING OUT THAT IT WOULD BE AT LEAST A YEAR BEFORE GOVT WOULD HAVE CLEAR PICTURE OF EFFECTS OF DISASTER ON LAND AND PEOPLE AS WELL AS SOCIOLOGICAL EFFECTS ON NOMADS. HE EMPHASIZED CONTINUING REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTERNAL AID. AT SAME TIME HE UNDERLINED GOVT'S DETERMINATION THAT ALL GON OFFICIALS

AND CITIZENS PARTICIPATE FULLY IN RECOVERY EFFORTS. FOR ITS PART NIGER HAD FORMED NAT'L COUNCIL TO STUDY DISASTER IN DEPTH AND WITH ASSISTANCE OF DONORS DESIGN AND EXECUTE REHABILITATION PROJECTS. GOVT WILL CONTINUE PARTICIPATE FULLY IN CILSS. AT SAME TIME NIGER WILL AVOID GRANDIOSE PROJECTS AS FORMULATED IN PAST BY UNCC. WHILE LOOKING GOOD ON PAPER THESE PROJECTS WERE UNREALISTIC AND BEYOND CAPABILITIES NIGER. NATIONAL COUNCIL WILL REVIEW DOSSIERS WHICH HAD ACCUMULATED OVER THE YEARS (RESTES DANS LES TIRROIRS). AGAIN, NOTING CONTINUED NEED FOR DONOR ASSISTANCE, HE UNDERLINED GOVT'S THANKS FOR USAID AND WISHED TO NOTE APPRECIATION FOR OUTSTANDING EFFORTS OF AL BARON. ASS'T SEC THANKED FONMIN FOR KIND WORDS AND QUICKLY REVIEWED AID'S MID AND LONG TERMS PLANS FOR NIGER AND SAHEL REGION AS WELL AS AUGMENTATION OF PERSONNEL. EASUM ASSURED MOUMOUNI OF CONTINUING US GOVT CONCERN FOR SAHEL AND OUR SEARCH FOR WAYS TO IMPROVE OUR ASSISTANCE EFFORTS.

4. BILATERAL ISSUES - EASUM EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF GAYA BRIDGE/PORT LOAN PROJECT AND INQUIRED WHAT STEPS NIGER HAD TAKEN EXPEDITE IMPORTANT CONDITIONS PRECEDENT. FONMIN SAID GOVT AWARE OF SEEMING INACTION BUT HAD NEVERTHELESS DISCUSSED WIT DAHOMEY AND FOLLOWED UP WITH OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION TO DAHOMEANS CON- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CERNING NECESSARY EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY. TO DATE THEY HAD NOT RECEIVED REPLY. MOUMOUNI SHOWED SOME IMPATIENCE ON THIS POINT. REGARDING MARKING OF CHANNEL OF UPPER NIGER MOUMOUNI WAS APPARENTLY UNCLEAR AS TO WHAT (IF ANYTHING) HAD BEEN TAKEN UP WITH NIGERIA.

5. ISSUES AT UN - IN RESPONSE TO EASUM'S QUESTION FONMIN

STATED HIS GOVT WAS NOT LOCKED INTO ANY POSITION ON
MAJOR ISSUES OF CONCERN TO AFRICANS. HIS DELEGATION WAS
HERE RATHER AS OBSERVERS. IF POSITIONS HAD TO BE TAKEN
NIGER WOULD DO SO "WITH NECESSARY RESERVATIONS." INGERSOLL

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